

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A ~~phosphate of cellulose II~~ cellulose II phosphate, which cellulose II phosphate may be partly carbamidated, wherein said cellulose II phosphate ~~of cellulose II~~ has a degree of phosphorylation of from 3 to 20 wt%.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A process for producing the ~~phosphate of cellulose II phosphate~~ according to claim 1, which comprises reacting a phosphorus oxide, a phosphoric acid halide, or a phosphoric acid or a salt thereof with cellulose II which may be partially carbamidated.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method of adsorbing metal ions in a solution, comprising adsorbing said metal ions using said ~~phosphate of cellulose II phosphate~~ according to claim 1 as a metal-adsorbing material.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A metal-adsorbing system comprising the ~~phosphate of cellulose II phosphate~~ according to claim 1.

Claim 5 (Original): A metal-adsorbing system according to claim 4, wherein said metal-adsorbing material is packed in a column.

Claim 6 (Original): A metal-adsorbing system according to claim 4, wherein said metal-adsorbing material is in a form of a bag.

Claim 7 (Original): A metal-adsorbing system according to claim 4, wherein said metal-adsorbing material is in a form of a cylinder or fabric and is arranged inside a water storage tank.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An anion-adsorbing material comprising a metal salt of the ~~phosphate~~ of cellulose II phosphate according to claim 1.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A ~~phosphate~~ of cellulose II phosphate according to claim 1, which has a degree of phosphorylation of from 8 to 20 wt%.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A ~~phosphate~~ of cellulose II phosphate according to claim 1, which has a degree of carbamidation of from 0 to 6.8 wt% in terms of nitrogen content.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 2, wherein the ~~phosphate~~ of cellulose II phosphate has a degree of phosphorylation of from 8 to 20 wt%.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 2, wherein the ~~phosphate~~ of cellulose II phosphate has a degree of carbamidation of from 0 to 6.8 wt% in terms of nitrogen content.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 3, wherein the ~~phosphate~~ of cellulose II phosphate has a degree of phosphorylation of from 8 to 20 wt%.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 3, wherein the ~~phosphate~~ of cellulose II phosphate has a degree of carbamidation of from 0 to 6.8 wt% in terms of nitrogen content.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A metal-adsorbing system according to claim 4, wherein the ~~phosphate~~ of cellulose II phosphate has a degree of phosphorylation of from 8 to 20 wt%.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A metal-adsorbing system according to claim 4, wherein the ~~phosphate~~ of cellulose II phosphate has a degree of carbamidation of from 0 to 6.8 wt% in terms of nitrogen content.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An anion-adsorbing material according to claim 8, wherein the ~~phosphate~~ of cellulose II phosphate has a degree of phosphorylation of from 8 to 20 wt%.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): An anion-adsorbing material according to claim 8, wherein the ~~phosphate~~ of cellulose II phosphate has a degree of carbamidation of from 0 to 6.8 wt% in terms of nitrogen content.